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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Before I say anything that might indicate to the contrary,  
(deep breath) the settlement is a lousy idea!

I am a PC user. Therefore, if I am to do what 90% of other PC users do, I am forced to use Windows. "Nonsense!" cries Microsoft. "There's PLENTY of competition! Just look at what Linux is doing!" This is precisely why I am forced to use Windows: because Microsoft is so large, they will stop at nothing, ignoring any moral or ethical standards set forth, to dominate their markets, or, I daresay, the world. They have challenged you, and you cowed to their demands for whatever reason was given to you. You are, as police and district attorneys everywhere would say, giving them a "slap on the wrist".

Fines are not the answer. Nor is redistributing the wealth that Microsoft commands; neither will slow the pace of this monstrosity that devours any that it thinks will stand in its way. Does this not sound like Standard Oil or Ma Bell? Both were split apart into smaller companies to re-introduce competition and give consumers a greater amount of choices in the marketplace. Yet by this move you allow the largest computer software corporation to exist, with its hungry sights on every computer in operation today.

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A man who has friends must himself be friendly,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18:24